IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (previously presented) An effervescent pharmaceutical formulation for the sustained and controlled oral administration of a pharmaceutically effective amount of a drug wherein the drug is selected from the group consisting of nifedipine and hydromorphone said formulation comprising microcapsules having a D50% between about 100 nm and 900nm in which the drug is entrapped in a biodegradable polymer and in which the pH of the formulation is adjusted to optimize delivery of the drug, wherein the formulation is adapted to disperse upon addition of water to form an effervescent drink.

2 (canceled):

3 (canceled):

4 (canceled):

5 (canceled):

6 (previously presented): An effervescent pharmaceutical formulation for the sustained and controlled oral administration of a pharmaceutically effective amount of a drug selected from a calcium channel blocker, an ACE inhibitor, a narcotic analgesic or combination thereof, the formulation comprising drug-loaded biodegradable microcapsules having a D 50% between about 100nm, and 900nm and a drug loading which ranges for about 10% to 70% by weight and wherein the pH of the formulation is adjusted to optimize delivery of each drug.

7 (canceled):

8 (canceled):

9 (canceled):

10 (canceled):

11 (canceled):

12 (canceled):

13 (previously presented): A pharmaceutical formulation according to Claim 1, wherein the polymer matrix comprises poly-D,L-lactide.

14 (canceled):

15 (canceled):

16 (canceled):

17 (canceled):

18 (canceled):

19 (canceled):

20 (canceled):

21 (canceled):

22 (canceled):

23 (previously presented): An effervescent pharmaceutical formulation for the sustained and controlled oral administration of a pharmaceutically effective amount of a drug selected from the group consisting of a calcium channel blocker, an ACE inhibitor, a narcotic analgesic or analogues or combinations thereof, said formulation comprising microcapsules having a D50% between about 100 nm and 900nm in which the drug is entrapped in a biodegradable polymer and in which the pH of the formulation is adjusted to optimize delivery of the drug, wherein the formulation is adapted to disperse upon addition of water to form an effervescent drink wherein microcapsules are prepared from an emulsion comprising a suspension medium and suspended therein droplets having a mean droplet diameter of less that 1 micron, said droplets comprising the drug and said encapsulating polymer wherein said biodegradable polymer is selected from polylactide, polyglycolide, poly(lactic acid-co-glycolic acid, poly(e-caprolactone), poly(hydroxybutyricacid); polyorthoesters; polyacetals, polydihydropyrans, poly cyanoacrylates; polypeptides, cross-linked polypeptides, and stereoisomers, racemic mixtures, co-polymers and polymer mixtures thereof.

24 (canceled):

25 (previously presented): The formulation according to claim, 23 wherein said drug is selected from the group consisting of diltiazem, verapamil, nifedipine, nimodopine, nicardipine, hydromorphone, codeine sulfate, oxycodone, dihydrocodeine tartrate, oxycodeinone morphine, fentanyl, sufentanil, oxymorphone, buprenorphine, captopril, enalapril, lisonopril and mixtures thereof.

26 (previously presented): The formulation according to Claim 25 wherein the biodegradable polymer is poly-D,L-lactide.

27 (previously presented): The formulation according to Claim 26 wherein said drug is a mixture of a calcium antagonist and a narcotic analgesic.

28 (previously presented): The formulation according to Claim 27 wherein said calcium antagonist is diltiazem.

29 (previously presented): The formulation according to Claim 27 wherein said calcium antagonist is nifedipine.

30 (currently amended): The formulation according to Claim [[23]] 25 wherein D50% is between 200 and 400nm.